

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment After Final Action be admitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicants submit that this Amendment presents claims in better form for consideration on appeal. Furthermore, applicants believe that consideration of this Amendment could lead to favorable action that would remove one or more issues for appeal.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. No claims have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-25 are presented for examination.

Applicants acknowledge that claims 16-25 are allowed and that claims 2-9 and 12-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Gulick et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,618,782). In response, applicant submits a declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 enclosed herewith to overcome the Gulick reference.

The submitted declaration illustrates that that the present application had been conceived and reduced to practice in the United States prior to November 23, 1998, the effective filing date of Gulick. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner asserts that reduction to practice is established by showing that the apparatus actually existed and worked for its intended purpose. See Final Office Action at page 3, paragraph 7.

However, applicants submit that the Examiner has overlooked an additional element constituting reduction to practice. For example, reduction to practice occurs upon proof that the inventor had prepared drawings or other descriptions of the invention that are sufficiently specific to enable a person skilled in the art to practice the invention. *Pfaff v. Wells Elec., Inc.*, 525 U.S. 55. Exhibit A clearly illustrates prepared drawings

and descriptions of the invention sufficiently specific to enable a person skilled in the art to practice the invention.

In addition, the Examiner maintains that each exhibit should be specifically referred to in the declaration. See Final Office Action at page 3, paragraph 7. Applicants submit that the submitted declaration clearly explains the facts applicants are relying to show completion of the invention. For instance, the declaration refers to page 2, section 3 of Exhibit A where it describes: a second agent coupled to a the point to point half duplex interface transmits a signal to a first agent of the interface via a first component of the interface indicating the type of access the second agent is requesting, and the first agent transmits a signal to the second agent via the first component of the interface indicating the type of access of the interface the first agent is requesting.

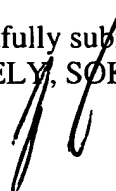
Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that the above rejection has been obviated since Gulick has been overcome by the enclosed 37 C.F.R. §1.131 declaration. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been overcome, and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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